

Judge Sidney R. Thomas



Sidney R. Thomas was nominated by President Clinton to serve as a judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on July 19, 1995 and confirmed by the United States Senate on January 2, 1996. Judge Thomas serves as the En Banc Coordinator and Death Penalty Coordinator for the Circuit. He serves on the Executive Committee of the Ninth Circuit and the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council. He also serves on the National Committee on Information Technology and chairs the Court of Appeals' Committee on Automation and Technology. He will become Chief Judge of the Circuit in December, 2014. His permanent chambers are in Billings, Montana.

Judge Thomas was born in Bozeman, Montana. He received his undergraduate education at Montana State University, and graduated with honors from the University of Montana School of Law in 1978. From 1978 until 1996, he was engaged in the private practice of law in Billings, Montana, with an emphasis on complex civil commercial litigation.

As a private practitioner, Judge Thomas was selected as one of the "Best Lawyers in America" and was included from the inception of the publication. He also maintained an "A V" rating by Martindale-Hubbell. For fifteen years, Judge Thomas was an Adjunct Instructor in Law at Rocky Mountain College. He received an honorary doctorate in law from Rocky Mountain College in 1998.

He is married to Martha Sheehy, a former President of the State Bar of Montana. She practices law in Billings. They have two children.